



CRADLING GRAIN
Lehi Centennial Hist 1850-1950

HARVEST TIME

Harvest time in those early days was the most busy time of the year, requiring the help of every member of the family. The work was hard and time consuming as no labor saving devices were known and everything was done by hand and the hard way. No alfalfa was raised but there was always wild hay; timothy and red top grew high. This was cut with a scythe or sickle and was done by four or five men working together. It was raked with hand rakes and pitchforks and no waste was permitted. Nora Olson reported that the best crops raised in West Jordan were wheat, barley and oats. Alexander Beckstead raised 70 bushels of wheat to the acre and from 70 to 100 bushels of oats and barley on this virgin soil.

The grain was also cut with a cradle, an implement consisting of a broad scythe with wooden fingers set parallel to the scythe, designed to receive the grain and lay it in an even swath. Samuel Bateman was an expert man with the cradle,

